

PENSION OFFICE FORCE.

COMMISSIONER DUDLEY'S RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO APPOINTMENTS.

How to Appoint and Whom to Appoint in Order to Facilitate the Work of Auditing Soldiers' Claims—Preference to be Given to ex-Soldiers, their Widows and Daughters.

In connection with the work of properly equipping the Pension Bureau, General Dudley, the Commissioner, has addressed the following communication to the Civil Service Reform Committee:

To the Select Committee on Reform in the Civil Service:

GENTLEMEN: In considering how to appoint to, and whom to appoint upon, the contemplated additional force of my office, I would suggest that a board of three persons be constituted; at least one of whom should be an officer of this Bureau, and one an officer of the Department of the Interior proper, to whom all applications of persons eligible to appointment (eligible as hereinafter set forth) shall be submitted, who shall designate time and place for the examination of all applicants; that these examinations be oral and written, and such as shall demonstrate the fitness of the applicant for the peculiar work of this office—the oral to be reduced to writing by a short-hand writer, to be detailed for that purpose as clerk to the board, and that their report be made direct to the Secretary of the Interior. The Secretary of the Interior, having a due regard to a fair and equitable apportionment of the whole force among the States and Territories, shall appoint those persons to the vacant places, who, in the judgment of the board, or two of its members, shall be deemed best fitted for the work of this office, who shall be commissioned for six months, the commission to expire at that time absolutely, and a reappointment to be made only upon the recommendation of the Commissioner. If re-appointed the tenure should be fixed at three years, subject, however, to removal for cause by the Secretary of the Interior, upon the recommendation of the Commissioner. The various grades provided and appropriated for by Congress shall be filled, and as vacancies therein occur promotion shall be made from the next lower grade, and so on until the lowest of each class is reached, to which all original appointments shall be made; provided that promotion for extraordinary merit may be made from the clerical to the examining force.

The salaries of the first or mechanical class shall be as follows:

First-class clerks.....	\$1,200 per annum.
Clerks.....	1,000 do.
Copists.....	900 do.
Messengers.....	840 do.
Watchmen.....	720 do.
Laborers.....	660 do.

The examining force shall be paid as follows:

Principal examiners.....	\$2,000 per annum.
Examiners of fourth class.....	1,800 do.
Examiners of third class.....	1,600 do.
Examiners of second class.....	1,400 do.
Examiners detailed as special examiners in the field.....	1,400 do.
Examiners of first-class.....	1,300 do.

The persons needed for the work of this office may be divided into two classes, viz:

1st. The clerical or mechanical force. For merely mechanical clerical work, requiring, primarily, good moral character, good penmanship, and a reasonable degree of accuracy in orthography and syntax, young men and ladies may be considered in the selection of persons to be appointed; but the proportion of this class to the whole number to be employed should not exceed one-third, for the reason that mere mechanical clerical work can be pressed and accelerated by good management. This class includes laborers, watchmen, messengers, copists, and clerks, in the selection of which ex-Union soldiers, their sons, widows or daughters should be given the preference, other things being nearly equal.

2d. The examining force, those who are to do the real work of the office, viz., settle claims for pensions, must exercise a sound discretion and form ripe and well-considered judgments. An unripe youth, who has seen little of the world, knows little or nothing of the habits of the people or methods of public business, save that which he has learned in the books, and which he has knowledge of only as abstract theories, although he may pass a brilliant examination in orthography, syntax and prosody, mathematics, classical literature, science, art, geography, and other branches of learning, is totally unfit for this class of work.

For this, the real work before us, two-thirds of all the force you provide should be men of character and good habits, who have settled down to the real work of life—if possible those who have fought for the Nation's life—who are ripe in years and experience, of capacity and education sufficient to enable them to discover the legal points involved, properly weigh and apply the testimony as well as determine the kind and amount required to sustain a claim, and to reach an intelligent and just judgment. Let this class be men who are fully impressed with the peculiar character of this particular work, and who will care more to speedily get ante-mortem pensions to the veterans who for years have been languishing with diseases or wounds, and have been kept waiting so long for their rights, rather than calculate how long they can make their own employment last. Who so fit in this respect, for this work, as ex-Union soldiers? Let this class be composed, too, solely of those who have a vote somewhere, and who have interest enough in the welfare of their Nation and State to vote at every election; and other things being equal, or nearly so, republicans should be preferred. But they should be divided amongst the States and Territories in proportion to the vote each casts to the whole vote of the country, taking into consideration the distribution of these now employed, and in my judgment the republican vote should be the basis, inasmuch as this is a republican administration, allowing the democratic vote as the basis whenever the pendulum shall swing the other way, and the administration pass into democratic hands.

I have made a calculation which shows, 1st, the full quota of the whole force to each State and Territory; 2d, the number now in the office charged to each State; 3d, the

number each will be entitled to, and have attached a copy thereof to this letter.

Very respectfully, WM. W. DUDLEY, Commissioner.

State.	No. entitled on basis of Rep. vote.	No. now in office.	No. due each State.
Alabama.....	18	1	17
Arkansas.....	14	2	12
California.....	20	5	15
Colorado.....	9	6	3
Connecticut.....	22	8	14
Delaware.....	3	2	1
Florida.....	8	3	5
Georgia.....	17	8	9
Illinois.....	34	10	24
Indiana.....	26	40	35
Iowa.....	60	24	36
Kansas.....	40	15	25
Kentucky.....	34	6	28
Louisiana.....	10	6	4
Maine.....	24	19	5
Maryland.....	26	29	3
Massachusetts.....	34	19	15
Michigan.....	61	19	42
Minnesota.....	31	14	17
Mississippi.....	11	3	8
Missouri.....	30	11	19
Montana.....	18	3	15
Nebraska.....	18	3	15
Nevada.....	3	1	2
New Hampshire.....	15	2	13
New Jersey.....	39	23	16
New York.....	181	86	95
North Carolina.....	28	10	18
Ohio.....	123	26	97
Oregon.....	7	1	6
Pennsylvania.....	146	64	82
Rhode Island.....	6	3	3
South Carolina.....	19	3	16
Texas.....	35	15	20
Vermont.....	19	12	7
Virginia.....	27	32	5
Washington.....	15	3	12
Wisconsin.....	47	20	27
D. C. and Territories.....	100	56	44
Total.....	1,552	742	810

WHAT CONGRESS IS DOING.

The most important measure that engaged the attention of Congress during the week was the tariff commission bill, which after being discussed at great length was finally taken up in the Senate on Wednesday and passed without amendment by a vote of ayes 38, nays 15. The bill provides for a commission of nine members, to be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, who are to receive as compensation for their services \$10 per day when actually employed and traveling and other necessary expenses. They are to investigate all the various questions relating to the agricultural, commercial, mercantile, manufacturing, mining, and industrial interests of the United States, so far as the same may be necessary to the establishment of a judicious tariff, or a revision of the existing tariff and existing system of internal revenue laws upon a scale of justice to all interests, and are to report to Congress from time to time, and to make a final report not later than the first Monday in January, 1883. The bill has not yet passed the House, but the indications are that it will.

SENATE. In the Senate on Friday, March 24, the Finance Committee reported adversely Mr. Vest's bill prohibiting the issue of bank notes or currency by national banks which may be organized or reorganized after July 1, 1882. A considerable portion of the morning hour was devoted to the consideration of the Life Saving Service bill, which after being amended providing for five stations—Key West, Jupiter Inlet, Cape Canaveral, St. Augustine, and on the Atlantic coast, and one on the Gulf coast—was passed. Mr. Kellerg, from the Committee on Mississippi River Improvements, reported a bill appropriating \$5,000,000 for improving the levees, etc., on the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, and it was placed on the calendar.

The Senate was not in session on Saturday.

On Monday in the Senate a bill was passed to continue the publication of the American archives, containing the compilation of historical manuscripts of the Revolution, which work was suspended about the time of the late war. The bill providing for the admission of Dakota as a State in the Union was recommended. The bill providing a pension for Mrs. Garfield was amended by adding the names of Mrs. Polk and Mrs. Tyler and passed. The tariff commission bill was further discussed. The Senate informally took up Mr. Call's resolution declaring that good faith requires the payment with interest of the claims for losses and damages under the treaty with Spain in 1818 for the cession of Florida, and Messrs. Call and Jones, of Florida, spoke at considerable length in advocacy of the resolution. Among the memorials presented was one from the New York Legislature urging Congress to grant pensions to all Union ex-soldiers who were confined in the rebel prisons during the war.

On Tuesday in the Senate a communication was read from the Secretary of the Interior, with an accompanying letter from the Commissioner of Patents, submitting a supplemental estimate for an appropriation of \$32,500 for the employment of twenty-five assistant principal examiners of patents. Memorials were presented from the Woman's Suffrage Association of Pennsylvania asking for the right of suffrage for women in Dakota when admitted as a State. Mr. Blair submitted and had read resolutions of the New Hampshire Legislature, expressing the sympathy of the people of that State for the people of Ireland in their struggle for more liberty and for deliverance from oppressive land laws. The resolutions recite that the Legislature deeply sympathizes with those unfortunate Irish patriots who are now suffering imprisonment without trial for their efforts to repeal oppressive land laws and to secure ownership of the soil to the men who cultivate it. The resolution appropriating \$400,000 for the purchase of additional property for the use of the United States Mint at Philadelphia was adopted. The tariff commission bill was passed.

On Wednesday in the Senate Mr. Cockrell presented a memorial of the St. Louis Land League asking the intervention of the Government in behalf of American citizens in British jails, and offered a resolution directing the Secretary of State to investigate the matter with a view of affording immediate relief. Adopted. A bill was reported for the improvement of the civil service.

HOUSE.

In the House on Friday Mr. Robinson called attention to the rule requiring committees to report back resolutions calling for departmental information within eight days, and in that connection asked for information relative to the fact that a resolution in reference to the imprisonment of American citizens in British prisons had not yet been acted upon. Mr. Robinson intimated that if something is not done soon and our Minister has not demanded his passport, he (Mr. R.) would move for his impeachment. A bill for the improvement of the Mississippi River levees, etc., appropriating \$5,000,000 was reported. The Albemarle bill to pay the claims of the captors of the ram Albemarle was passed. The remainder of the session was devoted to the consideration of pension bills on the private calendar, a number of which were passed.

There was no session of the House on Saturday.

In the House on Monday a resolution was adopted calling upon the President for information as to whether any protocol has been signed by Mr. Prescott or any other diplomatic representative of the United States setting forth the terms for ending the war in South America. The Post-Office appropriation bill

was reported back with the Senate amendments and referred to the Committee of the Whole. Numerous memorials were presented from various commercial bodies urging the passage of the Lowell bankruptcy bill. Bills were introduced authorizing the Commissioner of Agriculture to furnish seeds for planting purposes to persons unable to pay for them; establishing the office of Assistant Secretary of the Navy; authorizing the payment of medical experts in the Gulf of Mexico to exceed \$25 per day for each day of actual attendance; for a thorough investigation of the Mississippi Valley floods, and report measures to prevent their recurrence in the future, and to authorize the issue of \$25,000,000 in fractional currency of 25 and 50 cents. Mr. Bayne introduced joint resolution requesting the President to take such steps as are necessary to secure a negotiation of an additional treaty between the United States and Great Britain which will provide for the extradition of such fugitive criminals as may be charged with serious crimes or felonies, or who may have escaped before the execution or completion of their sentences, and who are not extraditable under the existing treaty.

In the House on Tuesday the case of M. D. Ball, claiming a seat as a delegate from Alaska, was called up as a privileged question, but was ruled out of order as such by the Chair. The House in Committee of the Whole then proceeded with the consideration of the tariff commission bill.

In the House on Wednesday the Senate amendments to the bill granting a pension of \$5,000 a year to Mrs. Garfield was concurred in. A resolution was adopted calling on the Postmaster-General for information as to whether an order had been issued by his Department forbidding the payment of any postal money order, or the delivery of any registered letters to M. A. Dauphin, or any other agent of the Louisiana Lottery Company, and, if so, whether that order was enforced.

REVIEW OF THE WEEK.

SPEAKER KEIFER presented to the House, on Monday, a communication from the Secretary of the Interior, in response to a resolution of inquiry, calling for an estimate of the amount of money that would be required to pay the pensions of the survivors of the Mexican and Indian wars, prior to 1846. The Secretary's letter was accompanied by a number of tables prepared by General Dudley, Commissioner of Pensions, in which he estimated that \$95,389,480 will be required to pay the Mexican war pensions, and \$28,201,632 to pay the pensions of the Indian wars, making an aggregate of \$123,591,112.

Mr. GEORGE W. CHILDS entertained the Saturday Club last Saturday night at his residence in Philadelphia. Among the guests were Ex-President Grant, Governor Hoyt, of Pennsylvania; Governor Cornell, of New York; Hon. George M. Robeson, of New Jersey; Hon. Edwards Pierpont, Senators Wade Hampton, of South Carolina; Thomas F. Bayard, of Delaware; Johnson N. Camden and Henry G. Davis, of West Virginia; George F. Hoar, of Massachusetts; George H. Poodleton, of Ohio; General Fitz John Porter, Speaker Keifer, of the House of Representatives; Hon. John Kasson, of Iowa; Chief Justice Daly and Judge Brady and Davis, of New York; Collector Robertson, of New York; Hon. John Russell Young, Minister to China; General Anson M. Cook, of New York, and a number of other distinguished gentlemen.

PROFESSOR LEWIS BOSS, of the Dudley Observatory, Albany, has made some interesting calculations concerning the comet which was recently discovered. He predicts that it will soon be visible to the naked eye, and that its tail will be large and brilliant. As the celestial rover will not approach the earth nearer than 50,000,000 miles those persons possessing timid natures need not be seriously alarmed.

"MOONLIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY" is the newest discovery in photographic art. The inventor is a German resident of Cleveland, and the first picture made was a landscape view in Lake View cemetery, including a photograph of President Garfield's tomb.

CONSIDERABLE progress is being made towards refunding the State debt of North Carolina.

IT HAS been decided by a Brooklyn (N. Y.) court that colored children cannot claim admission to white schools when schools set apart for them offer equal educational facilities.

IT IS intimated that in the selection of the five commissioners for Utah Territory, President Arthur will appoint only lawyers, believing that men of thorough legal knowledge can best reorganize the territorial government.

REPORTS from nearly every portion of Illinois state that the crops are in an unusually flattering condition.

AN ATTEMPT was made to assassinate President Merino, of St. Domingo. Sixteen shots were fired at him by a party of men in ambush. Ten of the assailants have been arrested and are being tried.

COUNT IYANNINI, the Italian minister to Mexico, committed suicide at the City of Mexico a few days ago.

THE President has approved the anti-polygamy bill and also the anti-Chinese immigration bill.

REAR-ADMIRAL JAMES H. SPOTTS died recently at Stanley, Falkland Islands, aged 60 years. He had given 22 years of his life to sea service. His death makes the following promotions in order: Commodore Pierce Crosby to be rear admiral; Captain A. A. Semmes to be commodore; Commander J. H. Perkins to be captain; Lieutenant-Commander Charles V. Gridley to be commander, and Lieutenant Brice to be commander.

SEVEN MEN were hanged for murder in different parts of the country on Friday last. It is evident that hanging is not entirely "played out" yet.

CAPTAIN MERRY, of San Francisco, in an argument before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, declared that a ship railway across the Isthmus is impracticable. He contended that no railway can be constructed that will carry vessels of 8,000 or 10,000 tons displacement. Colonel Ingersoll appeared before the same committee for the Panama Canal Company.

THE story recently telegraphed from the West asserting that a number of claimants for Mrs. Burr's millions had turned up in Kentucky, is said to have been a canard.

HENRY WARD BEECHER, in a recent sermon, "Emigration," took occasion to criticize Congress for passing the anti-Chinese immigration bill, denouncing it as a "fool Congress," for cutting off the immigration of the Chinese, who, he said, were necessary to do the "vulgar" work. Mr. Beecher has, apparently, been affected by his recent attack of illness.

IT IS reported that ex-Senator Dorsey has disposed of his ranches and other property in New Mexico to an Eastern company for about \$300,000 or \$700,000.

A CONTRACTOR has agreed to build the proposed underground railroad in New York at the rate of \$3,000,000 per mile.

THERE was an exciting scene in the St. James Hotel, Jacksonville, Florida, last Thursday, during which W. W. Eastman, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, was cowhired by Dr. F. F. Fales, of New York. The affair grew out of an alleged act of gross discourtesy towards a sister of Dr. Fales by Eastman, on a sleeping car between New Orleans and Mobile, Alabama.

PRESIDENT JARRETT, of the Amalgamated Iron and Steel Association of Pennsylvania; Andrew Lee, of Philadelphia, and other prominent iron-workers of the State, addressed a meeting of the discharged union men of the Phoenix Iron Company, at Phoenixville, Penn., advising them to stand firm, but to use no violence.

P. M. ARTHUR, grand chief engineer of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, speaking on the subject of labor movements said: "The Brotherhood has always abstained from affiliation with any other organization, and we do not propose, at this late day, to form any alliance for the purpose of coercing our employers. I am not aware of any dissatisfaction existing among our men, and do not anticipate any trouble. So far as I know, there is good feeling existing between the Brotherhood and the railway companies."

ONE of the most destructive conflagrations which ever visited Richmond, Va., second only to that which destroyed the business portion on its evacuation by the confederate army in April, 1865, occurred on Saturday last, resulting in a great destruction of property, the loss of one life and several minor casualties. A number of poor people were deprived of their homes and household goods, and the traveling public vastly inconvenienced by the loss of the main bridge directly connecting the northern and southern systems of railways crossing the James River. The loss exceeds half a million dollars.

CHARLES H. REED has had an interview with General Benjamin F. Butler in an effort to induce him to argue the Guiteau case before the Court in General Term. General Butler said he had no doubt of Guiteau's insanity. If he had time he would make the argument, but he could not possibly take hold of it. Mr. Reed saw Mr. R. T. Merrick also, and he urged the same course. General Butler told Mr. Reed he ought to make the argument himself; that he did not need any help. He may possibly do so. He says that there is error enough in the trial to set aside if Guiteau had killed an ordinary man.

THE SECOND sub-committee of the House Committee on Elections, in charge of the contested election case of Mackey vs. O'Connor, from the Second District of South Carolina, has agreed to submit its report. The majority report will recommend that Mr. Mackey be seated. The full committee voted unanimously against seating Mr. Stalbrand, the contestant in the case of Stalbrand vs. Aiken, from the Third District of South Carolina, and granted the contestant the privilege of withdrawing his papers. The committee decided to act finally on the Florida contested case of Bisbee vs. Finley, on Tuesday next. The sub-committee have reported this bill to the full committee, the majority report being in favor of seating the contestant.

GENERAL GRANT, accompanied by his wife and Colonel Fred Grant, returned to New York on Wednesday.

SENATOR PLATT, from the Committee on Pensions, has reported to the Senate an act fixing the rate of pensions in certain cases. It provides that on and after its passage all soldiers and sailors who, since the 16th of July, 1860, have been pensioned or rated at \$50 per month for total and permanent disability requiring the regular personal attendance of another person, shall receive in lieu of such pensions, \$72 per month, and shall be paid the difference between said sums monthly, from the date of such pensions or rating to the time of the passage of the bill. It also provides that hereafter the rate of pensions for such disability shall, in all cases, be \$72 per month.

CAPITAL TOPICS.

A bill has been passed in the House appropriating \$30,000 for placing in proper sanitary condition the grounds south of the Capitol.

The bill to incorporate the Garfield Memorial Hospital Association of the District of Columbia has been recommended to the District Committee.

Colonel J. K. Faulker, who commanded the Seventh Kentucky cavalry during the war, one of the most gallant cavalry officers in the service, has been appointed Surveyor of Customs at Louisville.

Gen. Ed. M. McCook, who will be remembered as a brave cavalry commander by the soldiers of the Army of the Cumberland, has grown rich and corpulent and lives in Colorado. He is registered at the Biggs House in this city.

The Washington Electric Light Company are preparing to illuminate the business portion of the National Capitol. Operations will be commenced immediately.

The Secretary of the Treasury has received information that certain municipal officers in San Francisco and certain Federal officers have been engaged in smuggling opium. The conspiracy was discovered through a correspondence in the Chinese language. No names are given.

Sterling P. Rounds, of Illinois, has been nominated by the President for the office of Public Printer.

Representative J. A. Hubbell, of Michigan, has been elected chairman of the Republican Congressional Campaign Committee.

Senator Don Cameron is suffering from an attack of pneumonia and is said to be quite ill.

General Grant and Mrs. Grant were entertained at dinner Friday evening by General Beale, at his residence, there being present beside General and Mrs. Grant, Senator and Mrs. Logan, Mr. and Mrs. Emery, President Arthur, and other distinguished people.

Senator and Mrs. Hale entertained at dinner Friday evening, at their residence, Baron and Baroness de Fava, the Italian Minister, Mr. and Mrs. John Hay, Mr. and Mrs. Barlow, Senator and Mrs. Bayard, Congressman and Mrs. Robeson, Senator Don Cameron, and Mr. de Bildt, of the Swedish legation.

Attorney-General Brewster has decided not to fill the vacancy in the star-route counsel caused by the retirement of Col. W. A. Cook, but will select additional counsel to take charge of the prosecution in conjunction with Colonel George Bliss and supply the place held by himself (the Attorney-General) before his elevation to his present position. The Attorney-General says he will continue in control of the cases and has not yet selected an assistant for Col. Bliss.

Speaker Keifer has removed Henry G. Noyes, one of the House reporters and appointed Mr. Danson, of Iowa, in his place.

J. Ormond Wilson, superintendent of public schools of the District of Columbia, has transmitted to Treasurer Gillfillan, for the Garfield Memorial Hospital fund, \$778.21, being the "affectionate offerings of many teachers and school children of this District who love and reverence the noble name which the proposed

hospital is intended to commemorate." Treasurer Gillfillan has also received \$100 from W. G. Metzger for the fund.

A delegation of twelve Sac and Fox and Iowa Indians, from Nebraska, have arrived in Washington. These Indians have a large tract of land in that State, upon which some of them desire to settle in severity, while others want to go to the Indian Territory.

Miss Susan B. Anthony appeared before the Woman's Suffrage Committee of the Senate on Thursday and pleaded the cause of the "dear sisters" eloquently and pathetically.

A sub-committee of the House Committee on War Claims has reported favorably a bill to reimburse the State of Virginia \$1,000,000 advanced by that State to the Federal Government during the war of 1812.

It is generally understood that Senator Teller will succeed to the Secretaryship of the Interior Department, although his name has not yet been sent to the Senate.

Jacob R. Shepherd, the man of speculation and developments, is confined to his bed. His physicians are of the opinion that Mr. Shepherd will not be able to appear before the Committee on Foreign Affairs to continue his testimony for at least a week.

Colonel Henry E. Peyton, executive clerk of the United States Senate, has received an invitation from the Ladies' Memorial Association of Atlanta, Ga., to deliver the oration in that city on Memorial Day, April 26.

Guiteau, it is said, has refused an offer of \$350 for the suit of clothing worn by him when he shot the President. The offer was made by a speculator who it is presumed, expected to reimburse himself by exhibiting the articles. The assassin continues to receive a considerable sum of money daily from the sales of his pictures and autographs to visitors.

A bill will soon be introduced in the Senate by a prominent Republican member providing for the retirement of all army officers at the age of sixty-two. Under the existing law the retirement is left wholly with the President. In the case of General Sherman no one will be advanced by his retirement, (should the bill be a law), as the grade of general expires with him.

Secretary Hunt has received a communication from Engineer Melville to a Russian official containing instructions as to the methods employed in the search for the missing crew of the Jeannette.

Gen. S. S. Burdett, Department Commander G. A. R., has been suffering considerably of late from his old enemy, the neuralgia.

The assignment of Mr. John Tweedale to duties involving increased responsibility in the War Department has been the cause of much sincere congratulation among his numerous friends in the Grand Army of the Republic, as well as elsewhere. Comrade Tweedale is a member of Kit Carson Post, No. 2.

The House Committee on Ways and Means has agreed upon a bill to reduce internal revenue by repealing the stamp tax on bank checks, the tax on the capital and deposits of banks after June 30, 1882, and the stamp tax on matches, perfumery, and medicinal preparations. The license of rectifiers of distilled spirits is fixed at \$120; if the annual product is less than 500 barrels the license will be \$60; wholesale liquor dealers are to pay a license of \$20; retail liquor dealers \$12; manufacturers of tobacco and cigars, \$5.

Among the nominations sent to the Senate by the President were William J. Wallace, of New York, to be United States circuit judge for the second judicial circuit of New York; Isaac D. McCutcheon, of Michigan, to be secretary of the Territory of Montana; Commodore Pierce Crosby, to be rear admiral in the navy; Capt. Alex. A. Semmes, to be a commodore; Commander Geo. H. Perkins, to be a captain; Lieutenant-Commander Charles V. Gridley, to be a commander; Lieutenant Jno. J. Brice, to be lieutenant-commander.

At a dinner given by Mr. Bancroft a night or two since there were present the President and an ex-President, the Secretary of State and an ex-Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Navy and an ex-Secretary of the Navy. There were also present President Arthur and Gen. Grant, Secretary Frelinghuysen and Mr. Fish, Secretary Hunt and Mr. Robeson.

Senator Zamacoena, the retiring Mexican minister, has left Washington for Mexico with his family. None of the diplomatic corps in Washington have ever been more popular here than Senator Zamacoena and his family.

The Chinese bill now awaits the President's signature to become a law.

Judge Reagan addressed the House Committee on Commerce in advocacy of his bill to regulate inter-State commerce. He claimed that pooling and charging more for short than for long carriage of freight were swindles upon the stockholders of the railroads and an actual robbery of the public.

The Senate Committee on Military Affairs has agreed to recommend the passage of a bill to increase the permanent annual appropriation of \$200,000 for arming the militia of the several States and Territories to \$300,000.

It is reported that the President has decided to nominate Richard Gibbs, of New York, consul-general to Cuba, vice Mr. Hall, who goes to Central America as minister.

WHAT IS GOING ON ABROAD.

Prince Leopold has been provided for by the English Parliament with an annuity of £10,000, and a pension of £5,000 to his widow, in the event of his death.—A daring aeronaut successfully crossed the English Channel in a balloon, and landed safely near Boulogne.—The Irish Land League has received \$120,000 during the past month from the United States and British Colonies.—Jeanne Bonaparte, daughter of Prince Bonaparte who was shot by Victor Noir, has married the Marquis d'Yvieu-neuve-Pargemont, a French legitimist.—The Sultan has demanded the expulsion from Constantinople of the correspondent of the Paris Gaulois.—The czar's congratulatory telegram to Emperor William on the occasion of his birthday celebration has produced a very favorable impression throughout Germany.—The territory of Ili has been ceded by Russia to China.—Father Feehan has been placed under arrest in Ireland on the charge of using seditious language.—Continued depression among the working classes of England will cause a large emigration to the United States this season.—The Emperor of Germany has responded to the czar's congratulatory dispatch.—Nineteen persons were drowned off Havre by the capsizing of a life-boat.—An English newspaper at Constantinople has been suppressed.—The proposed international monetary conference has been abandoned.—General Garibaldi took part in the Sicilian veterans anniversary which was celebrated at Palermo on Thursday, and the consistory will be held at Rome in May, when the Archbishop of Rome and the Papal Nuncio will be created cardinals.—Lord Erskine is dead.—Four hundred and fifty Swiss farmers have emigrated to the United States.—Another nihilist leader has been arrested at St. Petersburg.

EVERY SOLDIER SHOULD SUBSCRIBE. From the Holly (Mich.) Register.

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, of Washington, D. C., is the cleanest and best edited paper in that city. It was enlarged this week and is the cheapest one dollar paper in the world. Every soldier in the land should subscribe for it, as it is their true and steadfast friend.

THE SOLDIER'S VOICE.

[Communications from ex-soldiers are invited for this Department of THE TRIBUNE. Personalities must be avoided, and letters prepared as concisely as possible.—ED. TRIBUNE.]

THE SOLDIER AND THE GOVERNMENT.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE: In reading your welcome paper I notice sketches of wounded soldiers and recovery from what we would suppose should have proved fatal wounds. My brother, in the battle of Chickamauga, was shot through the neck, the ball penetrating the right side and passing through his pipe, coming out on the opposite side. He still lives, but is a sufferer from throat and lung troubles. There were four of us (brothers) in the three years' service, and one was killed at the last fight at Nashville. I received my first injuries at the battle of Stone River in the first day's heavy engagement. We were six days under fire, and without shelter all of that time and comparatively little food. I think if Senator Beck appreciated what we went through with that he would feel more liberal towards the soldier. Notwithstanding the sacrifices we have made for our Government and country, I feel that I have done nothing but my duty, although it has destroyed my health and made me an invalid for life. We have been honest in doing our duty;